THE
Dan Smoot Report

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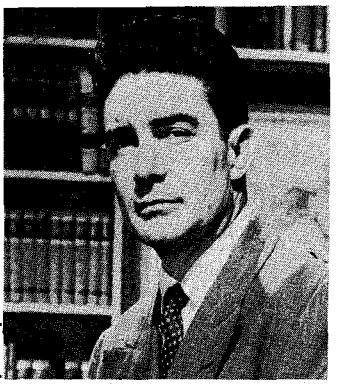

DAN SMOOT

FOR OUR OWN SURVIVAL....

Today is the eleventh anniversary of The Dan Smoot Report. *I celebrate the occasion by restating the foreign policy recommendations I have been making for 11 years.*

The bipartisan internationalist foreign policy which our government has followed since World War II keeps us involved in wars which our political leaders will not let us win — depleting our resources and manpower for the benefit of other countries, to the point of jeopardizing the security of our own; making us the most hated nation on earth; destroying the institutions and principles of government which made us a great power.

For our own survival, we must return to the traditional policy of national independence and benign neutrality which George Washington urged in his Farewell Address, and which our nation followed for 148 years: 1789 to 1917; 1920 to 1940. Washington did not want America to build a wall around herself. His policy permitted freer exchange of travel, trade, ideas, and culture between Americans and foreigners than has been possible since the policy was abandoned. The Father of our Country wanted the American *government* kept out of the wars, revolutions, and political turmoil of other nations.

The foreign policy of George Washington was temporarily abandoned on April 2, 1917, when Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war on Germany, to make the world safe for democracy. Wilson's airy evangelism sent thousands of men to bleed and die on foreign soil in World War I, but it did not make the world safe for anything worthwhile.

Revolted by the bloody and costly consequences of our first major venture in international meddling and uplifting, we returned to our policy of political isolationism.

Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected three times on a platform of political isolationism. In 1940, however, while promising to keep the United States out of World War II, Roosevelt was working relentlessly to get us involved.

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT is published weekly by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., Box 9538, Dallas, Texas 75214 (office at 6441 Gaston Ave.). Subscriptions: $18.00 for 2 years; $10.00, 1 year; $6.00, 6 months; first class, $12.50 a year; airmail, $14.50. Dan Smoot was born in Missouri, reared in Texas. With BA and MA degrees from SMU (1938 and 1940), he joined the Harvard faculty (1941) as a Teaching Fellow, doing graduate work in American civilization. From 1942 to 1951, he was an FBI agent; from 1951 to 1955, a commentator on national radio and television. In 1955, he started his present independent, free-enterprise business: publishing this REPORT and abbreviating it each week for radio and TV broadcasts available for commercial sponsorship by business firms.

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Such men as former President Herbert Hoover and Senator Robert A. Taft warned that American involvement in World War II would be a gargantuan error — implored us to stay out and let Hitler and Stalin destroy each other.

Roosevelt prevailed, and initiated the internationalist policy of world meddling, which all succeeding Presidents continued.

Truman adopted programs to implement the policy inherited from Roosevelt — multiple alliances which scattered American military power all over the earth on the presumption that America could not defend herself but could defend the world; foreign aid to all nations which would accept it (including communist countries) on the presumption that America could no longer stand alone, but could carry the world on her back.

Through NATO, set up in 1949, we made a permanent multi-billion-dollar commitment to defend Europe with American men and material, while European nations grew economically strong on our aid — strong enough to extend trade and aid to our enemies in communist lands; strong enough to compete with us industrially and to capture world markets from American industries being taxed to subsidize foreign competitors.

NATO was built on France as the keystone, with command headquarters in Paris; but France never made a gesture of real support for NATO. Now, de Gaulle has ordered us to get out and move the military installations which were built, at crushing cost to American taxpayers, for the purpose of defending France and other NATO countries.

Our "defense of the free world" in Europe has worked at cross-purposes with our "defense of the free world" in Asia and Africa.

The Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson administrations fully supported the communist propaganda campaign against European colonialism while, at the same time, subsidizing European colonial powers. The result has been resentment of the United States in all quarters.

Our internationalist foreign policy has also failed wretchedly throughout Latin America, where animosity toward the United States is more virulent than ever before.

Internationalists assume that because we have airplanes, missiles, mass-destruction weapons, and instantaneous worldwide communication systems, America can no longer live an independent national life. Actually, we are now in better position to live independently than we were in the early days of the Republic when, as a thinly populated, rural nation, we were heavily dependent on Europeans for manufactured goods.

Arguments for American intervention in European struggles were far more logical in the days of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson than they are now:

—France, at war with Britain, claimed a debt of gratitude and demanded our help, arguing that Britain would take back the American colonies if she succeeded in defeating France.

—England, claiming bonds of kinship and tradition, warned that England stood as America's only protection against conquest by Napoleon.

—Spain, with colonies to the south and west of us and with claims on most of the vast Louisiana Territory, entered the tug-of-war, trying to drag America into the endless turmoil of European politics.

America was a weak, underdeveloped nation then; but she had statesmen who maintained her national independence, kept her free of foreign entanglements.

Suggestion that America return to a policy of national independence brings objections from people who have been saturated with propaganda about our world responsibilities.

The American *government* has no world responsibility — has no constitutional authority to con-

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cern itself with the living standards or behavior of people in other lands, as long as they do not violate the rights of Americans.

One of America's alleged world responsibilities is to help underdeveloped nations build industrial systems like ours in order to raise their material living standards.

What happens to people in an underdeveloped nation after we give them complicated machinery which they themselves cannot produce or maintain — often cannot even operate? They are not ready for the complexities of a modern industrial society. We are forcing upon them a way of life which they are not yet culturally capable of accepting. We cut them loose from their customs and moorings, leaving them victims of political strongmen.

We consider America's advancement from a rural, backward nation to her present status as having been remarkably fast; and it was; it took only 175 years.

What if our complex, present-day industrial system had been thrust suddenly upon Americans of the early nineteenth century? It would have destroyed them. They were not ready for it. Yet, Americans of the early nineteenth century (in cultural, political, and technological development) were ages ahead of peoples whom we now try to push into our twentieth-century way of life!

Many underdeveloped areas have a greater abundance of natural resources than America ever had. Why did we advance while others did not? Our spectacular growth was possible because our Constitution gave us freedom from our own government, and our foreign policy kept us out of the troubles of other nations.

Our political system released and gave full play to the energies and ingenuity of every individual; it attracted foreign capital by guaranteeing the inviolability of valid contracts; it norished growth of domestic risk-capital by guaranteeing that a man was entitled to whatever rewards he could honestly earn with his own effort and money.

Our growth was achieved by private, not government, effort. This is the only safe and effective way to build an industrial system. When industries develop under private capitalism, they must operate efficiently and profitably; they must produce goods of the kinds and quantities needed, improving production as the consumer market develops.

These controls do not operate on governments. Government plans for industrial development tend to be grandiose and impractical — often influenced by the greed, corruption, and political ambition of the planners, rather than by needs of the people.

The initiative for "improvement" in a backward area must come from the *people* of that area.

People wanting to develop industries can get American private capital by adopting a political system to prevent their own government from confiscating or harassing foreign investments in their country. That is the way Americans originally got foreign capital to help develop industry.

One of our alleged world responsibilities is to promote world peace.

We cannot prevent other nations from fighting one another, and we have no business trying. We could, however, keep the United States out of war by maintaining impregnable *national* defense, and by returning to the traditional foreign policy of benign neutrality.

We would thus make our maximum contribution to world peace. Without American help, other nations could not afford the costly, destructive wars which they have been fighting in this century with our money.

Senator Fulbright says the United States has made international commitments beyond her capacity to keep. He recalls that many great nations "have been ruined by expending their energies on foreign adventures while allowing their domestic bases to deteriorate." He warns that:

"In our excessive involvement in the affairs of other countries, we are not only living off our

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assets and denying our own people the proper enjoyment of their resources; we are also denying the world the example of a free society enjoying its freedom to the fullest."

The sickening mess in Vietnam brought Senator Fulbright, Senator Morse, and many other liberal internationalists to saying what I have been saying for years. They do not, however, admit that the Vietnam war is an inescapable consequence of the foreign policy which *they* have been supporting for 20 years. They do not now urge abandonment of the policy they helped create. They want a reorientation, but the reorientation they suggest would make matters infinitely worse.

Vietnam has caused a decline in President Johnson's popularity; but disenchantment with Johnson is no sign of return to national sanity, unless the people realize it is not Johnson's mishandling of our bipartisan internationalist foreign policy, *but the policy itself*, which is the source of our trouble. Johnson, Humphrey, Fulbright, Morse, the Kennedys, and all other politicians who have consistently supported the internationalist foreign policy should be voted out of office; but that will do no lasting good unless they are replaced with men committed to the traditional policy of national independence and benign neutrality which enabled Americans to convert the North American wilderness into the greatest nation of all time.

The Invisible Government

Who formulated the foreign policy which has dragged the United States to the edge of disaster? For a few months late in the Truman administration, the answer seemed clear. Harry Dexter White (communist who virtually ran the Treasury Department while Henry Morgenthau, Jr., was Secretary) had formulated postwar economic and monetary policies. Alger Hiss (Soviet agent who had served as head of Policy Planning in the State Department) had played a key role in creating the UN and establishing it as the keystone of American foreign policy. Owen Lattimore (characterized by a Senate investigating committee as a "conscious, articulate instrument of the Soviet international conspiracy") had had profound influence on American Far Eastern policies.

There were many others of their ilk, with great influence in the Roosevelt - Truman administrations. Yet, when they were gone, there was no change. Eisenhower continued, even augmented, Truman policies; Kennedy augmented Eisenhower policies; Johnson augments Kennedy policies.

Obviously, *they* who took control of the federal government during World War II still control it. After years of painstaking research, I discovered who *they* are, and wrote a book about them: *The Invisible Government*, published by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., June, 1962.

The book is still available: clothbound, $4.00; pocketsize, $1.00.

For The Graduates

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On this 11th Anniversary of The Dan Smoot Report, *my staff joins me in expressing profound gratitude to all of you who make our work possible.*

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